

The Ladie's Blush:  
Or, THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
SUSANNA,  
THE  
GREAT EXAMPLE  
OF  
Conjugal Chastity.

---

AN HEROICK POEM.

By W. V.

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*Attendant formæ celebrantq; pudore Susannam  
Injusti, quibus est facta repulsa, Senes :  
Ira metusq; fidem lasam testantur, at insons  
Fatidici vatis solvitur ore nece.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed by James Cotterel, for Robert Robinson, near  
Grays-Inne-gate in Holborn. 1673.

# The Ladies' Balm:

FOR

ALL

Conjugal Chastity.

AN

BY

THE

LONDON:

Printed by James Gurney, for Robert Robinson, near  
Grey-hinge-gate in Lincoln. 1673.



## TO the AMOROUS READERS.



**P**REFACES to Books are as Gentlemen. Ushers to Ladies; when they have given a short account of the person or Subject they introduce, your own prudence will dictate to you, that your entertainment of them should be, in some measure, answerable to their quality. But the Lady we here bring into your view being of greater eminencie then any other, as to the vertue for which her memory hath been celebrated through all ages, it is thought requisite, to do it with more pomp and ceremony.

The Author of this Poem having spent some time in the perusal of the Apocryphal part of the Holy Scriptures, reflected, that there were three eminent vertues recommended to us in the persons and examples of three remarkable Women. The first is Prudence, in those of Judith, a Woman, as to Counsel and Conduct, in the greatest extremities of a tedious Siege, surpassing the best Politicians of the Jewish Government; and as to Action,

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out-doing all the Stratagems of the Inhabitants of the Hill-countries, to the admiration and amazement of Posterity. The second is Fortitude, observable in the magnanimous Matrone mentioned in the Maccabees, who, with undaunted courage, chose rather to follow her seven sons through the gates of death, by a generous Martyrdom, then violate the Law of her Country. The third, Continence, exemplifi'd in the incomparable Susanna, for which she will be look'd on by all subsequent generations, as the great Example of Conjugal Chastity.

Our Author hath thought fit to pitch upon this last for the Subject of his Work; waving the first, as implying a wish of that which the world calls Dissimulation for the more prosperous management of her designe; and the second, as being too great a precedent of Feminine courage, to be expos'd to the world, when those of that sexe, being made Egyptians by the Publick Faith of the Covenanting Cause, were already over-forward to be personally engag'd against the late Royal Standard. For about that time do I conceive this Piece to have been written; if not rather in the year----Forty four, famous for the Story of the Four-legg'd Elder.

HISTORY tells us of a Romane Lady, who, reflecting too seriously on a forc'd enjoyment, whether confounded with shame at her not having made a greater resistance, or the more to animate her Relations to revenge the violence, dagger'd her self out of a loath'd life. But as to our Susanna, what can be imagin'd more neerly approaching Martyrdom it self, then for a young Lady, of transcendent



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dent Beauty, to be brought to a publick and shameful Execution, surrounded with her disgrac'd and lamenting Relations, to avoid a pleasure she had often tasted (as being a Wife) and might then have accepted, from persons who manag'd the Government of her Nation, and had the title of Elders, not so much upon the score of their Age, as that of their Authority? Could there be a greater discovery of Resolution, then for a delicate person of that tender Sexe, to prefer Stoning in the open field, before the pressing solicitations of two Elderly, yet not too far superannuated Gallants, in the shady solitude of a Garden?

But never was so violent a temptation so bravely oppos'd, yet without any other defensives, then those of a meek and innoent resistance. Let any but imagine the horrour it must have been to her, to be so strangely surpriz'd in that posture of Paradise; and what confusion of thoughts it must have rais'd in her, to observe, in the Chrystal Mirrour of her Cistern the representations of two persons so little expected, and, ere she could lift up her eyes to look about her, to finde her self within their unwelcome embraces: Let any, I say, but imagine these circumstances, and thence compute, what an incredible presence of spirit, what a recollection of vertuous and Matrimonial obligations was requisite, to withstand the shock of so sudden an assault.

These reflections, I suppose, occasion'd our Author's dressing up of this History of Susanna into an Heroick Poem; which he might have much enlarged, had he not thought it more convenient, to make it somewhat proportionate

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tionate to the Story it self, as it lies in Sacred Writ. Wherein, if I am not mistaken, he hath oblig'd several sorts of persons; as first, those who are mightily affected with a Story put into Verse or fitted for publick Action, when in dull Prose it makes no impression at all upon them; and would rather see Susanna represented with Scenes in the Theatre, then hear of her exemplary Vertue and deliverance in a Sermon at St. Paul's, before the whole Representative of the City. To another sort, especially the Sisterhood of the Nation, it may serve for a smart reproach of their frailty, who, upon the very score of this Story, have entertain'd such a pique against the Apocryphal Writings, that, of the many hundreds of Thousands of Bibles, printed during the five fatal Olympiads of the late Usurpation, I doubt the number of such as had those bound with the Canonical, does not amount to the square root of the whole. In fine, whoever are concern'd in the sacred bond of Matrimony, are accordingly concern'd in the strange accidents occurring in this Story; finding here how innocent Vertue was miraculously rescu'd out of the jaws of death; and the guilty contrivers of Susanna's shame brought to condigne punishment; to be perpetual precedents, to all such as shall presumptuously attempt the tasting of that fruit, which the Laws of God and Man have forbidden them.

THE



# The Lady's Blush:

O R,

The HISTORY of

S U S A N N A.



Leep on, perfuming Morn, let not thy smiles  
With one Reflex gild the *Molucca-Isles* ;  
'Tis time enough ; on *Tybon's* Saffron-bed  
Repose the curls of thy refulgent head ;  
And let the *Æthiopians* Pearly Ore,  
Sown by thy hand, lie on their Swarthy shore  
A while ungather'd, that no Signal may  
Alarm the nimble minutes of the Day  
To harness *Sol's* fierce Steeds, lest while the Fates  
Enforce a passage through th' East's Lattice-gates,  
And send them panting up the *Indian* hill,  
This monstrous change him with amazement fill,

B

To

*The Lady's Blush : Or,*

To see, since he descended last t'allay  
 His flaming Temples in th' *Atlantick* Sea,  
 Nature inverted, heat with cold thus fight  
 Within one body, as before rude Night  
 First spread its frozen arms to entertain  
 That warmth which after brooded on the Main ;  
 And chill *December* quit his weeds of gray,  
 To usurp the Robe and Diadem of *May* :  
 Chaste Groves polluted, where fair *Daphne's* hair  
 True concord holdeth with th'affrighted Air,  
 And sacred streams complaining as they scape  
 From Springs attempted by the Elders rape ;  
 So pure a Fountain, that the mighty *Jove*  
 Might thence make *Hebe* mix him Healths of love,  
 And *Iris* draw her Aromatick dewes  
 Which on the *Persian* Vales she daily strews ;  
 Whilst Justice with her mystick Scepter saves  
 Vertue, that's shipwrackt, from the raging waves.

The Scene's *Judea*, *Babylon's* the Stage  
 Of *Jacob's* toyling issue's pilgrimage,  
 Whereon oft acted was the Tragick story  
 Of Heav'ns First-born, *Israel's* expiring glory.  
 Backsliding Nation ! yet still forward went  
 First unto Sin, then into Banishment.  
 Therefore it pleas'd th' eternal power to raise  
*Assyria's* Monarch, to proclaim his praise,  
 By sound of Ethnick Trumpets, too too shrill  
 Not to advance the great Commander's will

Against

## *The History of SUSANNA.*

3

Against those Tribes which took *Roboam's* part,  
And laid not the diviner threats to heart,  
Till, fury answering folly, they did lie  
Under the doom of God's enraged Eye,  
In miserable thralldome, to bemoan  
*Judab's* extinguisht light in parts unknown.

Among the rest, *Joakim*, next of kin,  
As well to *Judab*, as to *Judab's* fin,  
His progress made; where, ere long seated, he  
VVisely provideth for Captivity,  
By loosing bonds with bonds. For *Cupid* drew  
A golden Shaft armed with flames that flew  
First to his bosome, then to one most rare  
As ere perfum'd the uncorrupted air.  
She was *Chelkiah's* daughter, brought along,  
At *Babel's* brooks to sing a *Sion*-song.  
And though their mournful Harp was quite unstrung,  
And tuneless on th' *Affyrian* willows hung,  
Yet *Hymen* took it down, and play'd so true,  
That discontents fled like the morning-dew,  
Or winged sleep, and darkness drew amain  
Her sable Ensigns from the *Shinar*-plain,  
By *Dian's* Torches chac'd, who led the way  
Before this Couple to their Marriage-day,  
And joyn'd them hand in hand; so great a Prize  
As she's, both *Indies* scarce can equalize.

Besides her Beauty, which was highly fair,  
Her youth and comeliness beyond compare,



*The Lady's Blush: Or,*

Greater perfections she yet own'd, chaste, good,  
 And milde as *Exphrates's* Silver-flood,  
 Which, softly gliding where old *Eden* lies,  
 Seems here to court a better Paradise.

There was besides, wherewith this Bride was stor'd,  
 Another vertue yet, *She fear'd the Lord*;  
 And as she fear'd, she lov'd; no servile fear,  
 Such as base Slaves unto their Tyrants bear,  
 But like a Daughter, who with filial care  
 T'her Fathers just commands doth give an ear,  
 Sh'observ'd her Maker; so 'tis hard to say  
 If Love or Fear most taught her to obey.

Thus was she by her righteous Parents bred,  
 And in the holy Laws of *Moses* read.  
 Who would not *Solon* or *Lycurgus* be,  
 To have their Laws confirm'd by such as she?  
 Or what good Law-giver could then repent  
 To chuse, as he did, lasting Banishment?  
 Then *Numa's* labour surely vain had been  
 In his retirements to that *Faery Queen*;  
 When here's *Egeria*, this the substance whence  
 His frantick Raptures did at first commence;  
 Yet he mistook it, that the fate of *Rome*  
 Might still joyn hands with pre-ordained doom.

*Susanna* therefore i'th' *Chaldean* land  
 Doth for the *Jewish* Nation's wonder stand,

Where

Where like her Fathers parcht and in distress  
 'Mongst scorching Sands in *Paran's* wilderness,  
 She served him that by a flaming light  
 His servants guided through the horrid night;  
 Though here confin'd, like *Noah* in the fold  
 Of damned wolves lost in the world of old;  
 Or *Lot* in *Sodom*, *Daniel* in the Den  
 Of Lions, milder then those cruel men;  
 Or as *Ezekiel* 'mongst the Scorpions, where  
 No holy Charm could make them lend an ear:  
 So she, where God's a stranger, 's always known  
 A Votary at his eternal Throne.  
 For *Joakim's* riches, none of all the East,  
 Nay wealthy *Job* can't call himself the best;  
 Mighty in stock, and happier far in this,  
*Job's* wanton *Dinah* ne'r compar'd with his;  
 Nor churlish *Nabal*, though his flocks could bring  
 A widow's Dowry fit for *Israel's* King.  
 Moreo're, a House whose building stretcht so wide,  
 As might compare with the *Neronian* pride;  
 No less a wonder then *Rabyrus* wrought,  
 When Stars and Poles idea'd to his thought,  
 What work might take the proud *Domitian*,  
*Corinthian*, *Tuscan*, or *Ionian*.  
 Besides a Garden, which the Curious will  
 Best see describ'd by learned *Bacon's* Quill;  
 Or in a lesser Folio view the same  
 By th' Muses sacred held to *Danby's* Name.

Hither therefore the scatter'd *Jews* resort,  
 In stead of *Judah's*, now to *Joachim's* Court,  
 As to an Embleme of their sad *White-hall*,  
 Because he had more honour then they all.

About this time two Judges chosen were  
 To stand at Helm, and the Republike steer,  
 Both sons of *Belial*, far more like to split  
 Poor *Judah's* tatter'd Bark, then manage it ;  
 Of cursed *Abab's* race, whose wickedness  
 Claims here in them by *Metempsychosis*.  
 Thus unto Wolves committed were the Sheep,  
 And over Lambs, two Lions sent'nel keep :  
 For such they were, as oft the Lord foretold,  
 With *ὡς κληρώσει* from the days of old,  
 Should cast up *Babel's* foam, men grave with crimes,  
 Who seem to govern, but pervert the times.

This place these Judges made their Rendezvous,  
 Where daily muster'd the litigious *Jews*  
 Their forlorn troops, for Orders here to call,  
 As Ragged Regiments from a General ;  
 Even those who Zealot-like at Law contend,  
 And counterbyas with their dearest friend,  
 Though Bench and Ear corrupt : the Judges here  
 And Pleaders as in after-ages were,  
 Knaves, and the most part Fools, ere *Dulman* knew  
 Whether his Master could write false or true,

Or ever Sleep produc'd upon the Stage  
That Lawyer *Ignoramus* with his Page.

The throng therefore of jarring Suitors gone,  
And clouds of bus'ness chac'd by Noonday-sun,  
*Susanna*, as the Season's heat requir'd,  
Into her husband's Garden oft retir'd,  
With trembling leaves to fan, and shades assuage  
Th'hot entertainments of the Tropick's rage.

Mean while, stern Lust with eyes more subtle far  
Then those pure Opticks of the Eagles are,  
Or *Lyncens*, whose perspicil, they say,  
Could measure paces with swift-footed day,  
Stirs up these purblind Elders still to view  
The usual walkings of this matchless *Jew*.  
As Artists fingers busily convey  
Notes to that Instrument whereon they play :  
So every step of hers, as she did move,  
Jars on the Frets of their exalted love,  
But Discord raiseth with a murm'ring tone,  
Unheard by any save themselves alone,  
Till what before did gently glow, now streams  
Out in the atomes of devouring flames.  
For suddenly, this gale of lust awoke  
Hell's smothering embers wrapt in clouds of smoke,  
And our choice pair obliquely turn'd their eye,  
Looking asquint upon Eternity,

Left that most simple undivided light,  
 Once breaking in, might their black souls affright,  
 As yet securely quiet and asleep,  
 While stubborn thoughts no watch at all will keep.  
 Howere they knew quite to desist was good;  
 But wickedness, swell'd to so high a flood,  
 Broke down that saving rampart, till at length  
 Rebellion plumes it in her pride and strength :  
 Reason commands, what then shall Heaven say no ?  
 Or Conscience check, when Nature bids men go ?  
 Yet here a witness unperceived stood,  
 VWhile thus they did consult with flesh and blood.  
 For as in Fields appointed foes display  
 Ensigne 'gainst Ensigne, till the doubtful day,  
 Sway'd by Fates hand, unto one side doth yeeld ;  
 So now it fareth in a Spiritual field.

The Battel's pitch'd, Colours on each side flie,  
 Upon the wing of hoped Victory ;  
 Launce threatening launce, conjoyned Bodies meet,  
 And one another with loud Volleys greet.  
 Both Flesh and Spirit grapple, parties made  
 Hence from a congress of th' infernal shade.  
 On th' other side, One, onely, subtil, pure,  
 Th' adverse *Phalanges* able to endure.  
 These Elders then, who such brave Champions had,  
 (So potent was deceit) with joy grew mad  
 At th' honour of their crime, and both apart  
 This dispute eccho'd from's redoubling heart.



'Tis true, I'm great, and do the people awe  
By *Israel's* spotless and impartial Law ;  
The Tribes committed are unto my hand,  
As to a Shepherd in a Captive-land ;  
And if the Shepherd chance to go astray,  
To Savage beasts my Sheep must be a prey :  
Their lovely fleeces briers and thorns will tear,  
When they, orewhelm'd with pensiveness and fear,  
Without their Leader wander, whose disgrace  
Advantage gets by th' honour of his place.  
Know it the people may, who oft forsake  
The paths of goodness for examples sake ;  
And great mens faults move in a Sphere so high,  
As to be noted by each vulgar eye :  
Just as from Conflagrations in the skie,  
Star-blazing streams prodigiously do flie.  
But yet my greatness a disguise will lend,  
That safely I accomplish may my end.

Fond mortal ! thinkest thou Heav'ns clearer sight  
Hath now put on the mourning robe of night ?  
Can mists, or darkness, or ought interpose  
Betwixt his eye that all things does disclose ?  
No, no, there's one with flames of fire that flies  
Strictly t'avenge the world's impieties,  
And by the blast of his consuming breath  
Sure to repay sin, with its wages, Death.

Though it be so, my unconfin'd will  
Is towring now upon too high a Quill

To minde such weak reclaims : I cannot stay,  
 For fierce desire, like to a raging Sea,  
 Bears me along ; and though the best I love,  
 Depraved sence makes me the worst approve.  
 Let Bears and Tygers, all the Monsters that  
 First roar'd upon the Mountain *Ararat*,  
 (As Satan at the Sun-cloath'd woman hurl'd  
 The *Lethe*-vomits of his dreadful world)  
 Our Tribes pursue, then scatter and divide,  
 My headstrong passion will not be deny'd :  
 Destruction come, I'm satisfi'd if I  
 May satiate my lust, and after die.

Thus as *Ripheus* fell most good and true,  
 Scarce matcht for vertue 'mongst the *Trojan* crue,  
 Because the Gods thought fit : so in this heat  
 Heav'n's powerful Spirit's pleased to retreat,  
 And this Triumvirate of darkness weilds  
 Its conqu'ring Sword through the forsaken fields,  
 And reins once laid upon the stubborn neck  
 Of each proud Elder, not the sharpest check  
 Of Conscience might them stay, blindfold proceed,  
 As always those whom Hellish Princes lead.  
 Thus Vertue bleeding lay, successful Sin  
 Beats down the Bulwarks, lets the Victor in,  
 Who to compleat his Triumph, strives t' unite  
 Those which did under his black Banner fight,  
 Unknown to one another ; though both were  
 Wounded alike, yet neither durst declare.

So

## *The History of SUSANNA.*

II

So tim'rous guilt is, ere its branches shoot,  
Having i'th' minde but newly taken root.

How many black conceits within them move  
From day to day hatching lust-raging Love?  
The object fair *Susanna*, whom to win,  
These Sages walk their usual rounds in sin,  
Contented with a bare reflex, till Chance  
Conspir'd their hellish purpose to advance.  
For being both departed at high Noon,  
Each to his several habitation,  
They wheel'd about, turn'd by an unseen rein,  
VVhich brought them to the self-same place again.  
Ev'n as a Needle toucht by th' Magnet-stone  
Abhors all points of variation :  
So these, impregnate by infernal fires,  
No point inclin'd to but their base desires.  
Therefore as rays that to one centre tend,  
Or different footsteps to th'same journeys end,  
They meet from whence they went, (dissembling it,  
And forc'd to leave their former counterfeit)  
Each on the other gaz'd, their wrinkled veins  
Swell'd up with guilt, dy'd in Vermilion-stains,  
Exchanged red for white, and white for red,  
More then a thousand tongues discovered,  
Till each as in the Mirrour of a Glass  
Reflections darted to the others face,  
And prologue thereunto was first to learn,  
The certain cause of either's quick return.

So that at last they both reveal'd their lust,  
And hudled up the thing 'twixt fit and just.  
Both thus allcadg'd: I thought at home to stay,  
But there's no food my hunger can allay,  
That longeth much, since first I chanc'd to see  
The golden fruit of one forbidden tree,  
Neer to this place, which flourishing doth stand,  
As if ne'r planted by a mortal hand,  
Or that its fruit was ne'r ordain'd to grow  
For the rude taste of worldlings here below.  
It is the wondrous Spouse of *Joachim's* bed  
That hath m'unwary hopeles fancie fed  
With new *Idæa's*; yet mean while I pine  
For that which shuns these restless lips of mine.  
Nor may ones thirst be quenched with that drink  
Which touch'd once, forthwith away doth shrink.  
Observe the motions of this glorious Star,  
Not such another's in our Hemisphere;  
Nay, *Venus*, whom youth call the Queen of Love,  
Doth not with such a radiant lustre move:  
In short, those women came not near her, when  
Angels of God were Sons-in-law to Men.  
The thought of home therefore's abhorr'd, for Hell's  
In every place but where *Susanna* dwells;  
And th'entertainments of our Beldames breath  
More dreadful are then shocks of sudden death,  
Who with revengeful kisses daily strive  
Kindly to bury us poor two alive.

But,

But, doating Fools! they are mistaken, why  
 Old *Aeson's* Bath proves now no Poetry:  
 Experience hath confirm'd it true and good  
 I'th' vigour of our metamorphos'd blood.  
 We're young again, and, like the Lads of *Greece*;  
 We'll venture to surprise this Golden Fleece.  
 All *Colchos* can't withstand, nor Dragons keep  
 Their dreadful guard, whilst charm'd by us asleep.  
 Yet, fair *Laverna*, this request fulfill,  
 That when all's done, we may seem righteous still.

Now was that time when the *Nemean* beast  
 Stretch'd out his paws with rage on *Cancer's* breast,  
 Rouz'd by the *Delian* God, roars out amain  
 Quite through the fields of the Celestial plain,  
 Whilst from his furious breath fierce flames are hurl'd,  
 With *Thunders* mixt upon the lower world,  
 And frozen Stars which court the *Arctick* Pole  
 In sweltring Thaws about their centres roul.  
 As then of old, the chaste Nymphs made their streams  
 A refuge from that Boy's misguided flames:  
 So here *Susanna* to the Spring retires,  
 To countermand the heat of *July's* fires,  
 I'th' Garden to her Husbands Palace nigh,  
 Where stood a Fountain that was never dry,  
 But like to those which Paradise once fed,  
 Sendeth fresh glories unto every Bed,  
 Two Maids attending onely. Th'Elders had  
 Themselves before into this place convey'd,

Where



Why they lay hid like Serpents to deceive,  
Taught by that Monster which so served Eve.

Ye lofty Pow'rs ! some reasons to us mind  
Why Hell, the World, and Flesh are thus combin'd,  
VVithin that place *Corburnick* steps to tread,  
VVhere *Flora* does her various beauties spread ?  
VVhat is the cause that made them this devise ?

Are Gardens Stages fit for Tragedies ?

In such a place first was the Devil's Prize

God and the creature to make enemies.

Prodigious Garden, that could bear a weed

So full of poyson, as all *Adam's* seed

Still cries, O wretched man, what hast thou done,

Thus to orewhelm us in perdition ?

*David* did there, with an adulterous eye,

*Bathsheba* naked in the Fountain spie,

An eye with winged murder charg'd, which flew

As far as *Rabbah*, and *Uriah* flew.

A Garden 'twas wherein a painful floud

Sweat from our Saviour like to drops of bloud ;

And in a Garden *Judas* him betray'd ;

VVhere also was his righteous body layd.

VVhilst thus the Elders and their Engines lie,

Not the least thought of sordid Jealousie

Disturbs *Joachim's* quiet, who affords

No small respect to these Judicial Lords,

VVhom to mistrust were madness, their gray hairs

Being Antidote enough against such fears ;

But

But rather thinks, These learned Sages will  
*Susanna* with some vertuous precepts fill;  
 On whose each look an aged Hist'ry fits,  
 The best improvement of all younger wits,  
 Whereby she may, ere old-age draws on,  
 The prospect have of a free Horizon,  
 Her understanding clearly so to view  
 Fore-past'd events, and judge what shall ensue:  
 Such guides I wish our Fathers had, perhaps  
 They ne'r had long'd for these accursed Grapes  
 That edge their childrens teeth, whose off-spring we  
 The cause lament in our Captivity.

Thus *Joakim's* well-composed minde foresees  
 Not ought of the two Elders treacheries,  
 But, unsuspecting man, receives as friends  
 Those that disguised lusts with lawful ends;  
 VVhich freedom bound them to this fixed day,  
 VVherein they might his vertuous Spouse betray.  
 For being here, she thinks it fit to lave  
 Her wearied limbs in the refreshing wave;  
 So said unto her Maidens; Hence, be gone;  
 The place is private, leave me here alone:  
 Hasten, balls perfum'd, *Sabean* Odours bring  
 VVithout delay, to wash me at the Spring.

*Susanna* then unveils her orient skin,  
 Like *Eve's* in *Eden*, ere imperious sin  
 First found an Apple, then a Leaf to hide  
 The spotted Beauty of her new-born pride,

Into

Into the Fountain goes, whose amorous brims  
 Dropt tears for joy, & embrace such snowie limbs,  
 And curled in a wanton brayd, & orecome  
 Love's fire concealed in its watry womb.  
 Had you but seen, when yet she was half-bare,  
 Part of her Mantle sporting with the air,  
 The rest in folds about her middle born :  
 So sparkling *Phlegon* looketh in the morn,  
 VVhilst glorious clouds in glittering fleeces flye,  
 To interpose twixt it and humane eye.  
 But once aloft, and to th' Meridian fled,  
 His naked body on the hills doth spread ;  
 Such was she when those weeds or rags of clay  
 From her diviner flesh were cast away.

Ye fabulous Ancients ! was not this same She  
 Your *Aphrodite*, descended of the Sea ?  
 VVith Nymphs, not *Neptune* thus encompassed,  
 VVhilst now *Lupine* brings the Spring to bed.  
 Yea sure the same, although your purblinde eyes  
 Mistook when she did from a Fountain rise.  
 And this the Piece, *Apelles* to pourtray  
 Durst not adventure bove one line a day.  
 Glean'd up from thousand Beauties that might give  
 The Painter fire to make his Picture live.  
 So rare th' *Idæa* seem'd, such work there was  
 T'extract from mortals an immortal face.

Her Ivory-neck's like *David's* Tower of war,  
 VVherein so many conqu'ring Bucklers are,

And Arrows numberless, and sure to hit  
Unhappie Man that gazeth once at it.  
Her Rosie Brests like the two *Indies* stand,  
A Globed Hemisphere on either hand ;  
The cause perhaps our Fathers first did call  
East the right side of Earth's ever-rowling Ball ;  
And hither Merchants, laden with desire,  
Hurry to quench the flames of fire with fire.  
The other Regions which beneath those lay,  
Are not unfitly term'd *Incognita*,  
Hid by the swelling water, which denies  
Further pursuit to our discoveries.

Howere the Elders who stood watching here  
None of the worst Geometricians were ;  
Like him, who having on *Olympus* found  
*Alcides* foot imprinted on the ground,  
Did thereupon his whole proportion guess,  
And so engrav'd the big-bon'd *Hercules* :  
These not unlike conclude, from what they saw,  
An image they of th'unseen features draw,  
And argue from the lesser ; Vales close by  
Must needs abound with more variety :  
For when hills vaunt their fruitful pride, sure we  
In lower parts shall richer pasture see.

Thus swell'd with hope, they made out all their Sail,  
And swiftly rid before a prosperous Gale ;  
Their Keel's the Flesh, the Devil Pilots it,  
Like some grave Artist, whither he thinks fit :

*The Lady's Blush: Or,*

Hell lends them Wind, Presumption plies the Oar,  
 To land it safely at *Susanna's* shore.  
 Not many leagues this well-mann'd Vessel flew,  
 Till now within its wish'd Harbours view,  
 VVhen rapt with joy the goodly Steers-man cries,  
*Io*, my Babes, lift up your aged eyes !  
 Behold your peace, rejoyce, for yonder is  
 Th'expected Port of all true happiness,  
 Where blifs more then eternal rests in store :  
 Go, and possess ; what can be wish'd-for more ?

Hereat these Elders, though until this time  
 The Gout and Palsey troubled every limb,  
 Make shift to run ; those who of late had gone  
 In Lordly Chairs to the Judicial Throne,  
 Now finde their heels. Desire, as well as Fear,  
 Oft wings the slowest feet, turns earth to air.  
 Love knows no pomp, but stoops to meanest things,  
 And levels Subjects with their Captive-Kings.  
 Ev'n like two Eagles that are tow'ring high  
 Within the Champion of the liquid skie,  
 No sooner do discern their harmless preys,  
 But th'on them with ne'r-failing talons seize :  
 So they by Lust's most hungry rage compell'd,  
*Susanna* in their eager gripings held.  
 She strives and cries : alas ! what should she do ?  
 One naked woman in the arms of two,  
 Not men, but monsters, such as Poets feign  
 The *Cyclops* were, that did in *Ætna* reign.

Think



Think how *Susanna* blush'd, look'd pale, and then  
A trembling fear, blush'd, and look'd pale agen ;  
VWhilst they : ' Fair creature, now behold the doors  
' Are all made fast, y'are now within our pow'rs ;  
' Yet we intreat : consent, come, do n't deny ;  
' We're smitten, Lady, and with you must lie ;  
' There's none can see't, 'tis witness causeth shame,  
' VWhilst unrevealed Ills are free from blame.

*Susanna* sighs, and strives, and cries agen,  
' O subtle Elders ! O polluted men !

To which they : ' If thou't not, we Judges are,  
' And 'gainst thy innocence will both declare,  
' That, as we walked in this neighb'ring Grove,  
' Thou play'dst the harlot with thy wanton Love.  
' Therefore thy Maids away were sent, lest they  
' Should notice take of thine Adultery.  
A strange Dilemma put forth to perplex  
The wav'ring judgement of that tender Sex.

Therefore *Susanna* : ' Heavens be my guide ;  
' I am betray'd, distress'd on every side :  
' If I consent, by *Moses* Law 'tis said,  
' No wife shall climb up to anothers bed  
' Unpunisht ; which divine decree implies  
' Death the reward of all Adulteries.  
' But if refuse, y'already have design'd  
' VWhat base return true Vertue's like to finde !

*The Lady's Blush: Or,*

'Howere I must not, dare not sin : your skill  
 'Extends no further then this life to kill ;  
 'But God will me avenge, and one day plead  
 'My guiltless cause with vengeance on your head.

Thus as a Rock perceiving her unmov'd,  
 The more she did refuse, the more they lov'd.  
 For threats prevailing not with her, they try  
 By speeches fair, and thus to her reply :

'Lady, such Coyness misbecomes your years ;  
 'Tis time enough, when care hath sown gray hairs,  
 'And plowed furrows on your aged head,  
 'Then to confine unto a husbands bed.  
 'Y'are young, and handsom, of a comely feature ;  
 'Can it be thought ere God made such a creature  
 'For one man's sole embraces ? why should Law  
 'Men more then other baser creatures awe ?  
 'What though our Fathers *Moses* led ? must he  
 'A pattern be to all posterity ?  
 'Or if he must, what sin can you it call,  
 'To break one Law, when we oft break them all ?  
 'No, no ; regard the days 'fore *Moses* was ;  
 'There were no sins, till he invented Laws.  
 'Can you suppose the Dest'nies ere withstood  
 'A free Community in what is good ?  
 'Observe the Air, nothing more spotless is,  
 'Yet in a thousand thousand bosomes lies.  
 'Y'are born not for your self ; the Lord doth hate  
 'Those that are backward to communicate ;

'And

' And rashness 'tis t'engross Heav'n's liberal store,  
' Lest he who gave too much, should give no more.  
' Nor be offended that old-age hath drawn  
' A ghostly curtain o'r our youthful Lawn,  
' Or think it strange that lusty blood remains  
' Still in the chanel of our paler veins.  
' 'Tis you that gave it life, the fault is yours;  
' Do but consent, and then it shall be ours.

Yet she again (tears trickling down her face)  
Reflecteth on their Honours, Charge and Place.  
All's labour lost. When they could not perswade,  
A rash attempt they on her body made.  
Whereat *Susanna* (for it was high time)  
Cry'd out aloud, ' O Heav'n avenge this crime !  
And shriek'd so, that the Palace did rebound  
With dismal ecchoes of that dreadful sound.  
The Servants all amaz'd run to and fro,  
Distracted, ignorant which way to go.  
By this the Elders therefore roar'd as high  
Against *Susanna* : for those that were nigh  
Such yells had never heard before ; for there  
Two throats appear'd one open Sepulchre.

Her Servants then in a most frightful maze  
Into the Garden rush at several ways ;  
But when they saw their beauteous Lady stand  
Stark naked, and the Judges on each hand,  
What num'rous thoughts possess them ! yea what shame !  
While the lewd Elders do this scandal frame :  
Friends,

*The Lady's Blush : Or,*

' Friends, wonder not, our clamour though so high,  
 ' Had cause enough ev'n for the stones to cry,  
 ' Out of this Garden-wall, so to declare  
 ' Your Lady's wickedness beyond compare,  
 ' T'her Husband's shame, by being naught with one  
 ' Young and spruce Gallant, who now hence is gone.  
 ' For us to wink at such a fault, had bin  
 ' Upon our own heads to pull down the sin.

The Servants, much astonished to hear  
 The Elders give her such a character,  
 Durst not their Lady's cause defend, though she  
 Ne'r was before charg'd with unchastity,  
 And no such blemish was till then laid on  
 The candour of her Reputation.

By this report, *Susanna's* ill name's flown  
 In one small moment through all *Babylon*.  
 Fame's wings are long, and ever as it flies  
 New courage gains, and strangely multiplies.  
 How swiftly was the *Persian* once o'rthrown !  
 That loss from *Greece* unto *Mycale* blown  
 Ev'n in a point of time. Th'immortal Pow'rs  
 Themselves confine not unto days or hours.  
 There's sure some secret hand that doth convey  
 With more then natural speed, an infamy.  
 This was *Susanna's* fate, in *Vertue's* place  
 Only succeed bale titles of *Disgrace*;  
 Made Town-talk : What, is modest *Susan*, she,  
 Turn'd Harlot, taken in *Adultery* ?

O wretched woman ! infants yet unborn  
This fact will rue, and for their mother mourn,  
If she should scape with life ; but 'tis unfit  
The earth should bear so arch an Hypocrite.  
Nay, old wives scarce with teeth to chew their bread,  
The thing through streets and every corner spread :  
' VVhat think ye, Neighbours, of that youthful Bride  
' In whom such holiness was thought t'abide,  
' To day the Strumpet plaid, and's apprehended :  
' Is this that Vertue men so much commended ?  
' The world is surely chang'd ; both young and fair  
' Our selves were once, yet 'twas our constant care  
' Our Husbands not to injure ; now it's common :  
' He wants not faith, that henceforth ere trusts woman.

VVhat art thou, Lust ? or where is thy black seat ?  
VVhat Dev'lish pow'r did such a fiend beget ?  
'Tis thou that mov'st in hell through every part,  
And (whilst Love binds the world that nothing start)  
Confusion bring'st, and shatterest asunder  
Its pleasant frame, to trembling Nature's wonder.  
How is't that love so soon should hatred prove ?  
And fierce revenge possess the seat of love ?  
Or what unites such different extremes,  
But that Revenge and Love are equal flames ?  
And Good and Bad oft lie so close together,  
That 'tis not easie to distinguish either.

Sin, when conceiv'd, Lust for a parent hath,  
Lust the Grandfire unto that monster Death ;



A wretched off-spring by these Elders got  
 Upon *Susanna*, though they knew her not.  
 For night was come, and it they wholly spent  
 In thoughts of their intended Ravishment,  
 And Junctoes set consisting but of three,  
 Resolv'd before debate on Villany.

' Mischief, said they, must in progression be ;  
 ' There's no retrogradation in Villany :  
 ' Let's then pursu't ; he has but half a will  
 ' To be unjust, who seems afraid to kill ;  
 ' Nor knows he well a mischief how to cover,  
 ' Who ere compleated thinks fit to give over.  
 ' Her life must pay for this disdain, else we  
 ' Our selves of guilt shall scarce acquitted be.

Spotless *Susanna* ! what misfortune's this,  
 Occasion'd by these Elders wickedness ?  
 Thus *Joseph's* Mistress would have sily brought  
 Him to th' embraces which to eschew he sought :  
 Or that brave *Grecian* boy, whose blood was spilt,  
 To expiate his lustful mothers guilt.

*Sol* had by this ran his nocturnal round  
 Over the utmost *Antipodian* ground,  
 And coming to *Aurora's* *Rosie* place,  
 From off the Ocean sends his smiling rays,  
 Whom to adore the mixed Heathen rise,  
 Devoutly ordering their Idolatries.  
 But wo is me ! he did the summons give  
 Unto a Judgement, where for no Reprieve

*Susanna*

*Susanna* hoped : O immortal Steeds,  
Turn back for shame, be clad in mourning weeds ;  
Why should ye read in such resplendent glory  
The fatal accents of a *Jewish* Story ?  
Your Maker's darling, one that's innocent,  
Unto the place of Execution sent ?

That day therefore a greater concourse met  
At *Joachim's* house, where was the Judgement set ;  
These Elders Pres'dents, and if that wo'n't do,  
They will be Judges and Accusers too.  
O barbarous men ! and more perverted Law !  
Where none is found, will you there make a way ?  
Like *Hannibal* the horrid *Alps* climb ore,  
And force a passage never known before ?  
And that pure Justice might attest the deed,  
A Court is call'd to make good *Naboth* bleed.

These Elders then gravely began to call  
For poor *Susanna* to the Judgement-Hall :  
' Go, bring her in ; she folly did commit,  
' Such as our Law by no means may acquit.

With Father, Mother, Kindred, and a Train  
Of num'rous Friends, piti'd *Susanna* came ;  
Where think what blubber'd eyes, what dreadful grace  
By this usurpt the splendour of her face.  
And blame her not, when harmless soul she's come  
From wicked hands to take her final doom.

E

Yet

Yet ne'rtheless her glorious beauty shone,  
 Like to the Studs of *Ariadne's* Crown ;  
 Or as the Sun, after a latter rain,  
 Out of the clouds begins to peep again ;  
 Wherefore these wicked *Belials* gave command  
 T'uncover her, that she might bare-fac'd stand,  
 And with her Beauty feast their hungry eye,  
 Before the Sentence pass'd that she should die.

Corrupted Elders ! what bewitch'd your minde ?  
 Nay, though you saw her, what made you thus blinde ?  
 Mark but her Friends and Kindred that stand by,  
 Shew me amongst them any cheek that's dry :  
 Behold the tears out of their pensive womb,  
 Themselves deliv'ring silent Suitors come  
 For *Susan's* life ; see, see what trembling speed  
 Poor hearts they make for th'innocent to plead.  
 Where are your Children, if you ere had one,  
 Suppose *Susanna's*, their Destruction.  
 But vilest wretches, 'cause you ne'r had any,  
*Chelcias*, though but one, yet hath too many.  
 And could the Tempter (view her well, I pray)  
 Perswade ? what Rhet'rick us'd he to betray  
 A matchless woman ! O eternal Pow'rs,  
 Can this be born with, and not flaming show'rs  
 VVith Sulphur mixt into their bosomes flow,  
 VVho are contrivers of this Lady's wo ?

She's now Arraign'd ; th'Indictment being read  
 By th'Elders laying hands upon her head,

Amongst

Amongst the people, whilst discons'late she  
Weeping implores aid from Eternity,  
VVhercin she trusted, whose all-pow'rful King  
Could easily save her, and deliverance bring.

The Elders thus : ' O sons of *Jacob* dear,  
' To these Impleadings lend a gracious ear ;  
' Our Legislator of everlasting name,  
' You know, did all our sacred Statutes frame ;  
' VVhich after were confirm'd by Heav'ns broad Seal,  
' That did each Ordinance to him reveal.  
' Amongst the rest, if man or woman be  
' Surprized in th'act of Adultery,  
' Both of them must adjudged be to die,  
' That they, not we, may bear th'iniquity.  
' This wicked woman, as we lately were  
' I th' Garden walking for to take the air,  
' And chancing by great hap to look aside,  
' VVith her adult'rous mate by us was spi'd.  
' But that to innocence she might pretend,  
' Two Maids at first upon her did attend ;  
' Till Vice impatient grown, they did straightway  
' By her commands, themselves from thence convey,  
' And shut the doors ; none but in private we  
' The perpetration of the act could see.  
' For then a young man, by appointment sure,  
' Secretly lodg'd in the Grove's coverture,  
' Draws neer unto her, kindly doth embrace ;  
' She likewise him ; such willingness there was,

'Till close approaches (for we both it saw)  
 'Made them transgressors of that sacred Law.  
 'Then from a corner of the Garden, whence  
 'VVe closely standing saw this foul offence,  
 'Both of us made to the adult'rous pair,  
 'And came upon them ere they were aware;  
 'Them apprehended, but the sturdy knave  
 'Sprang from our feeble hands, and did us leave;  
 'And in such haste out of the Garden flew,  
 'As those whom guilt of Conscience doth pursue:  
 'And she, though much intreated, ne'rtheless  
 'VWill by no means th'Adult'rer's name confess.  
 'These things are true, which we here testifie;  
 'Now judge, my Brethren, if sh'ought not to die.

A confus'd murmur from th'Assembly brake,  
 VWho thought all true which these two Elders spake,  
 B'ing also backt with such Authority  
 As might by patent colour o'r a lye.  
 They therefore soon believ'd, O foolish *Jews*!  
 E'r unbelieving, or too credulous!  
*Susanna's* then condemn'd, false Judgement hath,  
 By this, her sentenc'd to a shameful death.  
 She now no more appeals to flesh and blood;  
 No favour craves of men, nor yet withstood  
 Their wicked dealings by her just Replies,  
 But unto Heav'n in such-like language cries:

'O everlasting Pow'r, to whom alone  
 'The thoughts of all men are entirely known,

'Things



' Things secret open, and events most clear  
' Before their causes in the Embryo's were:  
' O great Jehovah! whose admired eye  
' Runs through the Circle of Eternity,  
' Thou know'st, and none but thou, the wrong I bear  
' From those that have polluted *Moses* Chair,  
' Thy Law perverted, witness being given  
' Against their Conscience, my poor self, and Heav'n;  
' 'Gainst me, that now must guiltless die, and shame  
' To after-ages my disgrace proclaim,  
' VVhen all the Monument my life shall have,  
' Will be th' advantage of a scandal'd grave,  
' O'rlaid with staid'rous Marble; wo is me!  
' The fatal subject of this Tragedie,  
' Contriv'd in darkness, by those wretched men,  
' Who place the guiltless in the guilty's Scene.

This said, *Susanna's* Angel swiftly bears  
Her pray'rs beyond the rowling spangled Spheres,  
And does them soon to the Almighty show,  
Whilst all's secure and careless here below,  
The Elders safe, Revenge its end attain'd,  
VVhere Lust could not; Injustice also gain'd  
A dreadful Goale; all things compleatly done  
That might ascertain her confusion.

Th' Almighty VVord then forthwith leapeth down  
From th' highest Spire of the Celestial Throne,  
Like to a man of war, whose direful pow'r  
Commission hath whole Kingdoms to devour,

VVith

*The Lady's Blush : Or,*

VWith horreur, death, and with amazement flies  
 Into th' surprized Camp of Enemies :  
 So this descending with his great Commands,  
 At length within the *Chaldee's* Palace lands,  
 And findes out *Daniel*, one of great renown  
 VWith King and Princes all in *Babylon* ;  
 An *Hebrew* Captive, young, but very wise,  
 And able to unfold hard Mysteries,  
 Though wrapt up secret in th' eternal deep,  
 VWhere 'tis not fit for mortal men to peep.  
 This Word commanded him to undertake  
*Susanna's* Cause, examination make  
 VWho her Accusers are, and vindicate  
 The injur'd truth, before it be too late.

Hereat inflam'd with zeal, this Youth forth fled  
 Amongst the Throng which woful *Susan* led  
 To execution, with as eager haste  
 As even now rash Sentence on her pass'd.  
 Then with a loud voice cry'd, ' Sirs, O Sirs hear,  
 ' From this just woman's bloud I am most clear ;  
 ' VWhy, why so fast, ye heedless Brethren, why,  
 ' To see *Chelcia's* vertuous daughter die ?

This said, the over-hastie multitude  
 To *Daniel* turn'd : ' Youth from above endu'd  
 ' VWith knowledge great, tell us thy meaning ; we  
 ' VWould gladly be inform'd the truth by thee,  
 ' If ought's amiss : just and transgressor too  
 ' Cannot consist ; the latter we do know

' Prov'd

‘Prov’d by sufficient Test, but do not see  
‘How vertuous wives commit Adultery.  
‘Our witnesses uncorrupted Judges were,  
‘We think it rashness to think they should erre:  
‘Then, noble Youth, belov’d of God and men,  
‘Shew us this thing, and we will turn agen.

By this therefore they had enclos’d about  
*Daniel*, to be resolv’d of their doubt,  
Who with a comely grace i’t’h’ midst doth stand,  
And gravely calls for Silence with his hand ;  
Which being made, ‘Are ye such fools indeed,  
‘In weighty things to make such careless speed ?  
‘Where life’s concern’d, what doth of right belong  
‘Ev’n Heathens know, thinking delays not long ;  
‘And shall the Gentiles Moral righteousness  
‘Shew Heav’n-taught *Jews* the way not to transgress,  
‘And yet unfollow’d be ? For shame, my friends,  
‘See what dishonour all rash acts attends,  
‘Us odious renders in the sight of those  
‘Who neither God nor yet true Judgement knows,  
‘That thus, the truth unsearched, or the Cause,  
‘You are so forward t’execute our Laws,  
‘And upon *Israel’s* daughter Sentence give,  
‘Who nought has done but that she still may live.  
‘Infernal Angels sometimes seem as bright  
‘As those blest ones in unapproaching light ;  
‘And Justice often in its full careers,  
‘The true complexion of Injustice bears.

‘Re-

*The Lady's Blush : Or,*

' Return ye then unto the Judgement-seat ;  
 ' Examine well, for sure th' imposture's great ;  
 ' And witnesses more false then Hell have stood  
 ' T'imbrue their hands in this chaste womans blood.

The people then with one consent rejoyce,  
 And shout aloud with a confused noise,  
 Saying, To the Tribunal let's return,  
 And try if these men have false witness born.

Think how perplex'd the pensive Elders were,  
 'Twixt stings of Conscience, re-inforc'd with fear,  
 And Heav'ns revengeful hand, that thus had sent  
 Means unexpected for their punishment ;  
 VVhilst its Revenge doth still in triumph ride  
 For Murder more then any sin beside.  
 No am'rous blushes now, no lustful eyes ;  
 To *Cytherea* no more Sacrifice :  
 But Reason's offer'd succours once betray'd,  
 (Known too too well to those that are afraid)  
 Bloud from the Circle to the Centre flies,  
 And that which first does live with life supplies.  
 Hence came the Elders paleness, that wan fit  
 VVhich did on their cadav'rous temples sit,  
 Whereby to each indifferent person there  
 Their guilt appear'd, ere to the place drawn neer.

Thou sacred Conscience ! O mysterious thing !  
 From what hid cause does thy bright essence spring ?  
 And

And most unhappie he whom fear alone  
Hath strength to chain in desolation.  
Fear, Mortal's bane, and this world's slavery,  
That makes too penfive man not dare to die,  
But flight his happiness which nowhere dwells  
Within the concave of our earthly cells,  
And forceth silence where most need's to speak,  
And courage stops when she her flight should take.

Such was our Elders fate ; no word we hear  
They said, till to the Court return'd they were :  
Then passion somewhat overcome, they mutter  
These speeches as their stammering tongues could utter :

' Thou Princely Youth, admired for thy fame,  
' Since first we to th' *Caldean* Nation came,  
' Great is thy wisdom, that all *Asia* know,  
' That 'mongst the Heathen makes thee honour'd so,  
' And doth thy hand with such a Scepter fill,  
' As shines no less then our dread Monarch's will,  
' Who thinks the Gods do love thee, whilst such years  
' To thy great gifts but small proportion bears :  
' Come, and with us, thy Seniors, sit down,  
' Since God does youth oft-times with knowledg crown,  
' And turns Gray-hairs to Babes ; come, let us see  
' (If thou canst shew it) our iniquity.  
' We both are Witnesses, th' Indictment's read ;  
' Then as truth shall appear thou may'st proceed.



VWhereat young *Daniel* to th' Assembly said,  
 ' Let these two Elders forthwith be convey'd  
 ' To sev'ral distant places, not to speak  
 ' T'each other whilst I shall enquiry make.  
 ' Whom once examin'd, you will surely finde  
 ' This woman guiltless, and they both combin'd  
 ' To second Lust with Murther, and disguise  
 ' With shew of Justice their leud Villanies.  
 ' Justice sometimes becomes that cooling shade  
 ' Wherein Serpentine wickedness is laid.

The Elders are (to all the peoples wonder  
 At *Daniel's* strange proceeding) set asunder ;  
 And *Joachim's* house did more with men abound  
 Then *Dagon's*, when from *Gaza* *Sampson* bound  
 Was brought, to make th'uncircumcised sport ;  
 So great's the throng, so num'rous the resort.

A sudden change and great, methinks, to see  
 Two Judges late, now Prisoners to be.  
 Such is the nature of polluting sin,  
 T'enslave those souls where once it enters in.  
 VWhen Righteousness a Kingdom gives, no less  
 Is Bondage purchased by Wickedness.  
 Such was that grand Rebellion, those evils  
 That poison'd glorious Angels into Devils,  
 Till spirital pustules to appear began,  
 And Leprosie those Spirits over-ran,

That

That to the world's amazement their bright frame  
Is grown as loathsome as their cursed name.

One Elder forth is call'd; observe his pace,  
And read Guilt's crimson lines upon his face,  
Drawn in a duskie Argent; he, whose pride  
With murder joyn'd, even now his God defi'd,  
Arraigned stands 'fore man, his junior too:  
'Tis VVisdom's priviledge, and this Truth can do.

VVherefore our Princely youth unto him said,  
' O thou in sin grown old! wert not afraid  
' False Judgement 'gainst this woman to declare,  
' VVhose spotless dealings so resplendent are,  
' Adorn'd with Vertue, that renowned Gem  
' Of Honour, and immortal Diadem?  
' VVas not, think'st thou, just Heaven's dreadful hand  
' VVith vengeance arm'd, enough to countermand  
' Such high presumption? O most foolish spight,  
' That dares against the very Thunder fight!  
' But 'tis decreed, thy sins hith'erto lyen hid  
' Now in their time should be discovered.  
' Thus have you dealt with the poor innocent,  
' And Malefactors freed from punishment;  
' Regarding not that Greatness which doth say,  
' The guiltless soul thou by no means shalt slay.  
' Now therefore, since this woman thou didst see,  
' And took'st i'th'act, tell me, under what tree?

The Elder at this Question could not chuse  
 Demurring, till th'enrag'd concourse of *Jews*  
 Most part *Susanna* favouring, now bethought  
 Themselves she might be to this Tryal brought  
 Unjustly, and with a tumultuous cry,  
 Say, Answer Elder, or expect to die.

After some pause, astonish'd, he declar'd,  
 Under a Mastick they their pleasure shar'd.

Then *Daniel* smiling, ' Very well, reply'd ;  
 ' Against thy self, vile man, thus hast thou ly'd :  
 ' Behold, I see an Angel now receiving  
 ' Command to take thee from among the living.  
 ' But stand aside,--- And bring his fellow hither,  
 ' That as two Brethren both may go together ;  
 ' VVhen't shall appear false witnesses own breath  
 ' Themselves, not I, shall sentence unto death.

The other's brought, for whose true counterfeit  
 Unto the former we need not retreat,  
 Being much confounded and amaz'd to hear  
 The Court with Acclamations rend the air.  
 At last a silence made : ' O cursed breed  
 ' Of *Cham*, says *Daniel*, not of *Judah's* seed !  
 ' Could Beauty thus bewitch you ? why then see  
 ' Its full perfection, blest Eternity ;  
 ' Thou shouldst have looked thither, where thy fill  
 ' No less were then to understand and will.

‘ So hadst thou been too high for Satans lure,  
‘ And all false joys beneath thee lain obscure.  
‘ But Lust’s still armed with most pois’nous stings;  
‘ And where it woundeth, swift destruction brings.  
‘ This hath thine heart corrupted, and one stroke  
‘ The slender clue of thy short Dest’ny broke.  
‘ Thus *Israel’s* daughter have you serv’d, whilst she  
‘ Stood fearful of big-look’d Authority,  
‘ And gazing on your place, durst not deny  
‘ The freedom of Adulterous company.  
‘ But *Judah’s* daughter, she, would not transgress;  
‘ Her chaster soul abhor’d your wickedness;  
‘ Nor threats nor death prevail’d which you conspir’d,  
‘ For she refus’d to grant what Lust desir’d.  
‘ O glorious woman ! may this ever be  
‘ A Jewel to adorn thy memory !  
‘ But since thou saw’st her, to her charge hast lay’d,  
‘ That in the Garden she th’Adulteress play’d,  
‘ Under what tree ? I pray declare it here,  
‘ And thou thereby thine innocence shalt clear.

Now comes the proof: many a doubtful thought  
This perjur’d Elder to confusion brought,  
Left from the others answer he might vary,  
Or for the right, light on the quite contrary :  
Since the Almighty hath one Truth dispos’d  
To be unto lyes numberless oppos’d.  
Yet forc’d to speak after some short delay,  
This desperate anxious speech t’himself did say :

‘ I am

' I am now straightned ; hereon doth depend  
 ' The utmost tryal of my fatal end :  
 ' Come life or death, or hell or heaven, whether,  
 ' Under an Holm-tree they were naught together.

Then pious *Daniel* mildly to him said,  
 ' Ev'n now thou hast thy cursed life betraid ;  
 ' God's holy Angel has Commission ta'n  
 ' Forthwith to cut thy wretched life in twain,  
 ' And with a sword attends, this very hour,  
 ' Fierce vengeance on thy sinful head to pour.

Convicted plainly thus the Elders stand,  
 And *Susan's* freed by holy *Daniel's* hand.  
 VVhereat th'impatient *Jewish* concourse rise ;  
 The Palace trembles at their thundering cries,  
 To God with praises first that still doth save  
 Distressed sinners who his mercy crave ;  
 Nor any forlorn creature will forsake,  
 That heav'n doth onely his sure anchor make.

This godly heat howe'r soon had an end ;  
 They all their fury 'gainst the Elders bend,  
 With such a rage as Nature doth possess  
 (So violent 'twas) the whelp-rob'd Lionsess ;  
 That had not mighty Justice them reserv'd  
 Unto the shameful death by both deserv'd,  
 Their blood had doubtless wash'd the Judgement-floor,  
 And dy'd its Marble in a Purple-gore.

But



But they who Innocence would have betray'd,  
To publike Execution are convey'd :  
Nor is there Law more just, then when man shall  
Perish by that he laid for others fall.

Thus did one day, e'r-blessed may it be,  
The guilty punish, and the guiltless free.  
Unpiti'd di'd these Elders, whose black soul  
In hell about the fiery wheel may roul,  
Whilst *Susan*, late i'th' period of her age,  
Betakes her to a better Pilgrimage ;  
To see those Vertues in their native rays,  
Which gave their follower here such lasting praise.

Behold her Parents, Kindred, Husband too,  
(The mists exhaled of all former wo)  
Observe them now, imagine with what chear  
They do congratulate their *Susan* dear,  
From death to life restor'd, brought from the grave,  
And, one foot in, snatch'd from the *Stygian* wave.  
Then to compleat their joy, with one accord,  
For her deliverance they praise the Lord.

' O thou most worthy to be fear'd great God,  
' Who rul'st the Nations with an Iron rod,  
' But gently dost thine own choice *Israel* bring,  
' To be refreshed at thy mercy's spring ;  
' Our Fathers trust in thee was not mistaken,  
' Nor were they in their greatest wants forsaken :  
' Thou

'Thou heard'st the groans of this thy servant, when  
 'She stood betray'd, condemn'd by wicked men,  
 'Who falsly charg'd her, though no stain was found  
 'Whereby thy faithful Handmaid to confound.  
 'Bless'd, and for e'r admired be thy Name;  
 'May worlds to come sing forth thy mighty fame,  
 'That to death's portal turnest man, and then  
 'Proclaim'st, Return again ye sons of men.

By this time *Daniel's* glory proudly ran  
 Like panting *Phæbus* to th' Meridian  
 Of *Babylon's* Court, where it still rising tow'rs  
 Neerer and neerer to th' eternal Bow'rs.  
 Divinest Youth! well worthy of a Throne  
 More glorious then ere earthly wight sate on,  
 And of a righteous Crown, whose guards shall be  
 Such mystick Gems as *Susan's* Chastity.

**F I N I S.**

